

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Middle Atlantic Region  
Region 1

Quarterly Report  
Fourth Quarter, Year 1 -- February - April 2002

New York Academy of Medicine

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| A. Network Programs .....  | 1 |
| B. Outreach Programs ..... | 2 |
| C. Staff Activities .....  | 4 |

Appendix A: RAC Meeting Report

Appendix B. Outreach Class Reporting Form

Appendix C: Outreach Reporting Forms

Appendix D: Health Literacy Conference Program

Appendix E: Exhibit reports

**Quarterly Report  
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**A. NETWORK PROGRAMS**

**Resource Libraries**

No report.

**Regional Advisory Committee**

The RAC met on February 5 at the New York Academy of Medicine. This was the group's first meeting; they were given an overview of the entire RML program, with reports from all the program coordinators. A report is attached as Appendix A.

**Network Members**

The mailing to public libraries inviting them to Affiliate Membership in the NN/LM was received calmly in most areas. However, in New York State there was significant concern expressed by hospital librarians as to what this implied in terms of their relationships with public libraries, and whether they were expected to provide services which they did not wish to provide or which were completely outside their own perceived purview. There were many calls and e-mails devoted to calming fears. In southeastern New York these fears were particularly intense, and Mary Mylenki responded to a request from the director of the South Eastern New York Library Resource Council to make personal visits among his constituents. On March 3 she traveled to SENYLRC headquarters in Highland, NY, to meet with hospital librarians, and on March 20, she went to Poughkeepsie to meet with the public library directors from the Mid Hudson Public Library System. Once they understood what was intended by the Affiliate Member drive, their fears appeared assuaged. Following the drive overall the number of Affiliate members increased dramatically.

On April 18, Mary Mylenki and Joanne Jahr attended the 30th Anniversary celebration of HSLANJ (Health Science Librarians' Association of New Jersey,) held at the Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. Norma E. Blake, the New Jersey State Librarian, and Dina Matos McGreevey, wife of the Governor of New Jersey, presented greetings, and in her remarks Mrs. McGreevey stressed the importance of quality health care information.

The Network Programs Coordinator, Ms. Jahr, responded to approximately 300 telephone inquiries and an equal number of e-mails throughout the quarter.

Ms. Jahr attended the March 6 meeting of the METRO Hospital Library Services Program Advisory Council at METRO headquarters in New York City.

### **Electronic Document Delivery Project**

The dedicated EDD listserv discussion list went “live” on February 11. A draft data collection tool was sent to all participants as an e-mail attachment. Maxine L. Rockoff and Mary Mylenki participated in discussions with Laurie Thompson at SUNY Syracuse in attempts to identify someone who could work with the data to be collected, to provide an analytical report on the outcomes.

### **Document Delivery**

In April, Ms. Jahr conducted two two-hour DOCLINE training sessions via telephone and one one-hour SERHOLD training session via telephone. All were to remote locations that would have required costly and involved travel arrangements.

Ms. Jahr deactivated and reactivated 62 DOCLINE accounts and approved 103 DOCLINE routing tables.

### **Communications**

Publication on the web site of the January-February and March-April issues of the newsletter, *Middle Atlantic Perspective*, was announced via the regional listserv MARL.

There were 16 messages posted to the listserv during the quarter.

RML staff participated in all scheduled teleconferences.

### **Classes Taught**

March 15; PubMed/Gateway/Toxnet. Ms Falls traveled to Albany to teach this class to 16 medical librarians at Albany Medical Center’s computer lab, at the request of the Capital District Library Council. (Reporting form attached Appendix B.)

See also under Consumer Health below.

### **Grant Programs**

No report.

## **B. OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

At the end of March, Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg visited the New York Academy of Medicine for meetings with its senior staff. Maxine L. Rockoff, the RML Director, and Mary Mylenki, RML Associate Director, were able to arrange to have Dr. Lindberg add a meeting specifically with RML staff; the hour long meeting with Dr. Lindberg focused on outreach to the underserved.

### **Health Professionals**

In March Ms. Falls had a lengthy telephone consultation with Linda Savarie, RN, of the Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake, NY. Ms. Savarie has been given oversight of a community resource center within the hospital and was referred to Ms. Falls for training and grant advice, by Bill McCall, a former RML staff member and now a librarian in upstate New York. In April when Ms. Falls was again traveling in that area she was able to meet with Ms. Savarie and discuss the needs of the Community Learning Center. This site may be a candidate for a connectivity award or the library improvement program.

Ms. Falls continued her ongoing efforts with the Moses Ludington Hospital - Inter-Lakes Health in Ticonderoga, NY. This institution has just finished an ambitious building program and added computer hardware to multiple locations within the hospital and long-term care facility, but does not have any area that could be classified as a library or resource center. Ms. Falls met with Lynn Reale, Director of Nursing, and has arranged to speak with her in the coming months regarding the information access plans for the hospital.

Also receiving ongoing tender loving attention is the Alice Hyde Hospital in Malone. This institution was the recipient of a used RML computer in 1999; although the monitor is still in use, the CPU has died. The library, housed in a small room on the first floor, is woefully deficient in current texts; Ms. Falls discussed with the circuit librarian and the library volunteer how the staff might solicit funds for updating this collection.

### **Consumer Health**

In February planning continued for the "Safe Farms, Safe Food, Safe Futures" conference. There were to be two sessions in health information access, one directed to the public and the other to public librarians. Originally planned as a co-presentation for Peggy Falls and Erica Burnham, following Ms. Burnham's resignation, Ms. Falls, traveled to Schenectady and presented them single-handedly. These classes were enthusiastically received by the attendees and the coordinator, Rebekah Tanner of the Mohawk Valley Library Association. (Outreach reports are attached as Appendix C.)

On April 25, as a follow-on to the above sessions, Ms. Falls taught "Health Information Access in an Agricultural Environment," to 15 public librarians in two sessions at the Schenectady County Public Library. Most were based in Schenectady although two came from nearby towns. (Outreach reports are attached as Appendix C.)

***Health Literacy Conference*** On April 30, 2002, a conference on Health Literacy was held at the New York Academy of Medicine, co-sponsored by the Regional Medical Library, the METRO SIG, Libraries for the Future, and other organizations. Erica Burnham coordinated the planning and organization of this highly successful program, and although she had left the RML in February, she returned for the conference. We are very grateful for all the hard work she put into it right up to the day of the conference.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Rima Rudd, a health educator and lecturer with Harvard's Health Literacy Studies and a researcher with the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and

Literacy; her topic was “The Challenges of Functional Health Literacy, A Role for Librarians.” Dr. Rudd was followed by a panel of speakers from the Queens Borough Public Library, the Cancer Information Service, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the New York City Poison Control Center. In the afternoon there were three breakout sessions: 1) Collaborations and Partnerships; 2) Creating and Acquiring appropriate Materials; and 3) Multilingual Partnerships. Over 100 people attended the conference. (Program attached as Appendix D.)

### **Public Health**

On March 25 Ms. Mylenki attended the Partners Steering Committee meeting at NLM.

### **Exhibits**

Staff exhibited at two health professional meetings.

April 3-7, National Student Nurses’ Association Philadelphia, PA. Ms. Falls staffed the NLM exhibit, assisted on the first day by Toni Yancey from Region Two.

April 11-14, American College of Physicians - American Society of Internal Medicine, return to Philadelphia, PA; P. Falls and J. Jahr.

(Exhibit reports appear in Appendix E.)

## **C. STAFF ACTIVITIES**

**M. Mylenki** prepared and submitted the Year 2 budget.

**E. Burnham** resigned the position of Consumer Health Information Coordinator in February in order to return home to Canada. Recruiting to fill her position began immediately, with all professional staff participating in the interview process

**Rhonda Allard** was hired as Consumer Health Information Coordinator and began work effective April 12, 2002.

**P. Falls** is Conference Planning Chair for the UNYOC chapter of MLA; she attended a planning meeting in Albany on March 22.

### **Meetings/Classes Attended**

M. Rockoff and M. Mylenki attended the MLA sponsored satellite teleconference entitled “Sync or Swim: Managing the Flood of PDAs in Health Care,” on February 6; they visited New York Medical College and observed the program at that site.

M. Rockoff and M. Mylenki participated in the mid-year RML Directors meeting held at NLM, March 21-22, 2002.

M. Rockoff and M. Mylenki attended MLA/NLM Informationist Conference, April 4-5, 2002, at NLM.

